

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 18-25, 29-33, and 46-48 that are pending in the above-identified patent application.

Examiner Interview

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies that he extended during the telephone interview on September 29, 2006. The details of the interview will be discussed below.

Amendment to Claims

Applicants have amended claim 18. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-17, 26-28, and 34-45. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification to include language tracking claim 18. No new matter has been added by the amendment to the specification.

Rejections Withdrawn

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner has withdrawn all previous §§ 112, 102, and 103 rejections.

Rejection Under § 101

In numbered parts 4-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 18-22, 29-33, and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. As best understood, the Examiner believes that the recitation of executing the serial chain of transactions is necessary to meet the requirements under § 101. During the interview, the undersigned discussed the added language to claim 18 regarding the execution step. In particular, the Examiner agreed that the recitation of "at least one transaction within the serial chain of transactions . . ." would suffice to overcome the rejection under § 101. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his rejection 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of the subject claims.

It is noted that Applicants disagree with the Examiner that the execution step is needed to meet the requirements of § 101, however, in order to move the case to allowance, Applicants have agreed to amend claim 18. Applicants reserve the right to pursue a claim without such execution step in a later filed continuation.

Clarification of the Serial Chain of Transactions Limitation

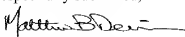
As discussed during the interview, Applicants have clarified the definition of "serial chain of transactions" as recited in claim 18. In particular, it is now clear that the serial chain of transactions may be carried out using one or more intermediate parties, so long as the item is transferred serially from one to the other.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the instant claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited. In the event there are any fees due and owing in connection with this matter, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Dated: October 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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